

City of Hampton  
 Workshop/Regular Council Meeting  
 May 1, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.  
 17 E. Main Street  
 Hampton, GA 30228

**Workshop meeting @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Mayor Coley, Councilpersons Mitcham, Walls, Byrd, Meeks, Hearn and Hutchison.  
 Also present City Manager Andy Pippin, City Attorney Scott Mayfield, and City Clerk Kim Drinkall, Captain Derrick Austin.

City Manager Andy Pippin informed Mayor and Council that Mr. Michael Harris was running a little late and asked that the public hearing be moved further down the agenda. He also informed Mayor and Council that Mr. Brian Brakefield was running late also and asked that he be moved further down the agenda.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss what the Council would like to do for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. During discussion several ideas were brought up. City Manager Andy Pippin said we will organize working on a parade and getting a bouncy ball he would get with the Main Street Director Candy Franklin to get things going on this.

Katie Queen with the Henry County Republican Woman asked the Mayor and Council for a donation for dictionaries for the Hampton Elementary and the Rocky Creek Elementary Schools in the amount of \$400.00. She stated that every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader will get a dictionary and the books cost \$1.75 each. Councilperson Hutchison made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Meeks, to authorize \$400.00 to be put in the fiscal year 2013 budget for dictionaries for the Hampton Elementary and the Rocky Creek Elementary Schools. The motion passed unanimously (5-0), Councilperson Walls abstained from voting due to his wife being a member of the Henry County Republican Woman Party.

Mayor Coley opened the Public Hearing for oral comment on the redevelopment plan for the purpose of establishing an "Opportunity Zone". Mr. Michael Harris gave a brief explanation of how this will work if adopted. No public input was received.

Mayor Coley closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Councilperson Hearn made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Byrd, to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation, personnel, and real estate. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The meeting adjourned into executive session at 6:41 p.m.

Mayor Coley called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. to order and invocation was given by Councilperson Meeks.

Councilperson Meeks made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Hearn, to amend the agenda to add Mr. Brian Brakefield from the 6:00 p.m. agenda to discuss the possibility of a 5k race in downtown Hampton. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

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Councilperson Walls made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Hearn, to amend the agenda to include discussion of a request submitted by Ms. April Batchelor 124 Caldwell Drive, to enclose her garage. During discussion it was noted that Henry County's planning and zoning department had misinformed Ms. Batchelor that she would be on Hampton's agenda tonight for a public hearing. City Attorney Scott Mayfield advised against hearing this request until all the proper procedures were done. The motion failed to amend the agenda to include discussion of the request submitted by Ms. April Batchelor 5-1 with Councilperson Mitcham, Hearn, Byrd, Meeks and Hutchison voting no.

Councilperson Hutchison made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Byrd, to approve the minutes of the Workshop/Regular meeting April 3, 2012 as published. The motion passed 5-0; Councilperson Mitcham abstained from voting as she was not present at the meeting.

Councilperson Hutchison made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Hearn, to approve the minutes of the Special Called Council Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 as published. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Mr. Bud from the Forrest Commission commended the City for 20 years of being a Tree City. He presented the Mayor with a glass statue, a Tree City Flag, and Tree City signs to be placed in Hampton. He encouraged the City to continue to plant trees. Mr. Bill Dodged informed the Mayor and Council that Mr. Bud will be retiring from the Forrest Commission this year and thanked him for all of his years of service.

Mr. Brian Brakefield spoke to Mayor and Council about having a 5k in Hampton. He stated he would like to shut down part of Main Street; he has briefly talked with the police department about this already. Councilperson Meeks made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Hutchison, to allow Mr. Brian Brakefield to hold a 5k in Downtown Hampton contingent on a workable plan and approval from the Hampton Police Department. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Mrs. Linda Dodgen 15 Shelby Street thanked the Mayor and Council for having McDonough Street painted. She did have issues with 19/41 being closed during the making of the movie. After several calls she found out that only one lane should have been closed not all of them and suggested that if and when we allow another movie company to film in our Town that we make sure the only lanes that are being closed are the ones that are on the permit to be closed, also maybe the City could inform the citizens somehow of this in advance.

Ms. April Batchelor 124 Caldwell Drive informed Council that she was very disappointed in their decision not to hear her tonight on the agenda. She stated she had grown up in Hampton and wanted

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her children to do the same however her house was too small to accommodate them and that was the only reason she had wanted to close in her garage. She stated she had followed all of the proper procedures in getting the permits and is having a hard time getting anywhere, when her neighbors never obtained any permits and they have their garage enclosed and are allowed to keep it without going thru the process. She stated she feels the Council may be sending the wrong messages to her children; if you do the right thing you get know where. However if you break the law you get what you want.

Mrs. Cindy Hearn 76 E. Main Street informed Mayor and Council that she remembers the Council allowing other residents of Hampton to enclose their garages. She also stated that the crosses would go up on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and there were 10 new crosses which bring a total of 186. Mrs. Hearn encouraged the Council to consider spending money on fixing up the train depot. She stated the carpet in the depot is really bad.

Mr. Williams 188 Kendall Drive was scheduled on the agenda but was not present at the council meeting.

#### Old Business:

Mr. Scott spoke on behave of Mr. Beck to Mayor and Council about the Council's concerns on allowing Mr. Beck to repair mowers and/ or small machines at his rental resident 40 East Main Street Hampton under a Home Occupation License. Mr. Scott presented the following conditions to the Mayor and Council for approval of a Home Occupation Licenses;

1. All movers and/or small machines must be stored behind the home nearest as possible to the back of the home. No machine may be stored outside of the chain link fence which encloses the back yard of the home and no equipment may be visible from the roadway when standing directly in front of the home.
2. All mowers and/ or small machines must be covered by a tarp except for the mower that is currently being worked on.
3. No potentially harmful liquids such as gas or oil may be spilled. Rather, all liquids must be captured and stored in appropriate storage receptacles.
4. Work shall only take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Councilperson Hutchison made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Meeks, to authorize Mr. Beck a Home Occupation Licenses at 40 East Main St. During discussion Mr. Duzan of 5 Peebles Street stated when he sits on his back porch it is terrible to look at the mess over there. He asked Mr. Scott if he would like to see it where he lives.

Mr. Norton who owns the property in question stated it was fine with him as long as it was ok with the City to allow Mr. Beck to have a Home Occupation Licenses to repair mowers and/or small machines.

During discussion Councilperson Hutchison amended his motion to read approve the Home Occupation Licenses with the above conditions presented by Mr. Beck to change the times of work

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taking place between 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and to add a natural buffer to be installed at the back of the property. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Meeks, it was noted before a license was issued that inspector JD Matthews would sign off on the conditions set forth by the Council. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Councilperson Meeks made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mitcham, to approve an expenditure of \$3,000.00, to have the old fire truck painted to have the expense come out of hotel/motel expenditures. During discussion it was noted that the fire truck would be used in parades. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Debbie Palmer asked the Council on where they stand on the Teen Council. Councilperson Mitcham stated the Council is in support of the Teen Council. Councilperson Hearn stated they do support a Teen Council they just do not know what they are supposed to do next. He asked if Ms. Palmer could coordinate with the City Manager and come back to the Council with some ideas of what they have to do that would be helpful to the Council.

Councilperson Hutchison made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mitcham, to approve Resolution NO. 12-02, a resolution of the City Council of Hampton, Georgia to adopt an urban redevelopment plan for areas within Hampton. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The department heads gave their monthly reports.

Chris Moore DDA Co Chairman spoke to Mayor and Council stating when the City partnered with the DDA back in 2009 to take on a project at the end of Main Street, which consisted of the City Council taking some money that was in a low yield low interest savings account and letting the DDA use that to purchase a building at the end of the street. He stated the building was remodeled and refurbished and a tenant enjoyed it for two years. He stated it was a nice compliment for that end of the street with all of the brick work. Chris said back in May of 2011 they lost their tenant at the end of their lease they decided to move and the DDA feverishly tried to search to look for a new tenant for the building. After 6 months of paying it out of their general funds their funds got very low and through some informal meetings they had requested the payments be deferred until they could close on the building. They came and made that request at the November meeting based that they had a contract for someone to purchase those buildings. That contract is still effective however the closing date has been pushed back several times. To give clarity on the loan Chris said the original loan was for \$315,000.00 at 5% interest on that loan amount the savings account that the money was in before was less than 2% interest. The total amount of principal the DDA has paid on the loan is \$49,279.44 and the interest paid on it is \$20,468.44.

Chris stated that the DDA has divided the building and had to invest close to \$13,000.00 to do this. Councilperson Hearn asked how this was done if the DDA had no money to pay the City payments. Chris stated the DDA basically took out a loan from themselves and have to repay that loan amount back to their loan fund. Councilperson Hearn said on the City contract it states if payment is not

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received their will be a 15% penalty and asked if that 15% penalty was figured in. Chris said he would have to find out. Chris stated if the City would accept the modify loan agreement the DDA would pay a lump sum of \$130,000.00 and refinance for 15 years at 5% interest rate with a monthly payment starting tomorrow of \$1,068.00. He also told the Council that the DDA would like to paint the old fire truck for the City.

Councilperson Hearn made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Hutchison, to adjourn into executive session to discuss real estate, possible litigation, and personnel. The motion passed unanimously (6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. into executive session

Mayor Coley called the meeting back to order at 10:10 p.m.

Councilperson Hutchison made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Hearn, to allow April Batchelor at 124 Caldwell Drive to enclose her garage and the permitting will be done at the City. The motion passed 4-2, Councilpersons Walls, Hutchison, Hearn and Byrd voted yes. Councilpersons Mitcham and Meeks voted no.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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R.W. Coley, Mayor

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Kim Drinkall, City Clerk